

Message Text

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53

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 /031 W
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O R 091205Z MAY 74
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9560
AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 1845

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC VT CU PO
SUBJ: LAWRENCE K. LUNT/CAPTAIN PERALTA

REF: LISBON 1831

1. THIS MORNING'S NEWSPAPERS QUOTED PERALTA'S ATTORNEY PALMA CARLOS (BROTHER OF THE MAN NOW MOST TALKED OF AS PRIME MINISTER IN THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT) AS STATING YESTERDAY EVENING THAT "CAPTAIN PERALTA MAY BE FREED TODAY". PRESS NOTES THAT PERALTA STILL IN PRISON LAST NIGHT.

2. WE HAVE CONTACTED FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL DIRECTOR FREITAS CRUZ WHO STATED THAT HIS LATEST INFORMATION WAS THAT JUNTA HAD NOT YET TAKEN DECISION ON MATTER. HE COMMENTED THAT IT WAS, HOWEVER, CONCEIVABLE THAT SOME DECISION MAY HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY "THE GROUP BEHIND THOSE CHARGED WITH MAKING DECISIONS". THIS SUGGESTS THAT SHADOWY ELEMENTS OF ARMED FORCES MOVEMENT WHO CARRIED OUT THE COUP AND WHO ARE BEING SPOKEN OF VARIOUSLY AS CONTROLLING OR AS MONITORING ACTIONS BY THE JUNTA, MAY BE PUTTING PRESSURE ON THE JUNTA FOR PERALTA'S IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE.

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3. MEANWHILE WAINWRIGHT HAS BEEN IN TOUCH WITH

PERALTA'S LAWYER WHO HAS INDICATED THAT PERALTA'S
RELEASE MAY HAVE ENCOUNTERES SOME OBSTACLES AND WHO
INDICATED SOME WILLINGNESS TO BE "COOPERATIVE" WITH
WAINWRIGHT. PALMA CARLOS INDICATED THAT THERE IS
SOME OPPOSITION TO PERALTA'S UNCONDITIONAL RELEASE
FROM A JUNTA MEMBER WHO HAD ADAMANTLY OPPOSED
PERALTA'S INITIAL LIGHT SENTENCE.

4. DECISION ON PERALTA'S RELEASE MIGHT BE ASSUMED
TO BE IMMINENT. NEED FOR CUBAN REAFFIRMATION OF
COMMITMENT TO SIMULTANEOUS RELEASE OF LUNT THEREFORE
URGENT. RECOMMEND STEPS BE TAKEN IMMEDIATELY
TO REMOVE DISCRETIONARY CAVEAT ON VATICAN'S
INSTRUCTIONS TO THEIR MAN IN HAVANA.
SCOTT

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NNN

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